

day radioiron retention were $25.8 \pm 20.9 \%$ in the control group ($n = 23$), $4.0 \pm 1.2 \%$ and $7.6 \pm 4.5 \%$ in the groups which received iron : PIH = 1 : 2 ($n = 15$) and 1:1 ($n = 10$), respectively. The fraction of total retained found in each organ did not vary significantly between the three groups.

Studies of the effect of PIH on iron absorption were performed in 6 patients with β -thal/HbE disease who were not regularly transfused and were in steady state. Two iron absorption measurements were performed in each patient using whole body counter. The first measurement was made after 600 mg of PIH had been taken along with radioiron ascorbate and 5 mg of carrier iron while the second measurement was made after administration of the radioiron and carrier iron without PIH. Results of the 14th day radioiron retention showed a significant inhibitory effect on GI iron absorption with the mean \pm SD being decreased from $60.6 \pm 4.0\%$ to $28.8 \pm 13.8 \%$ of the administered dose.

To determine the clinical effectiveness of PIH, a study was made on 36 year old iron overload with β -thal/HbE volunteer who was not transfusion dependent. During the hospitalized period, a low iron diet was served. Twenty-four hours urine and stool were collected daily for iron analysis. Physical and blood examination were performed periodically. Each drug was administered for 6 days with 3 day resting interval. Either 600 mg PIH or placebo were administered orally at 8:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Ranitidine (150 mg) was given at 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. daily during the PIH and placebo administering period to prevent acid hydrolysis of the PIH. For the DFO period, 2 g/D was given subcutaneously for 10 hrs. Brilliant blue fecal marker (200 mg) were also taken with the first and the last dose of each drug. The iron excretion was found to be 0.37, 0.69, 26.44 through the urine and 4.26, 7.38, 10.66 mg Fe/D through the stool for placebo, PIH and DFO respectively.